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1975/04/26

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

2661

ACTION

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CONFIDENTIAL

April 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*
SUBJECT: Status Report on Evacuation

At Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President transmitting a copy of Dean Brown's status report on evacuation (Tab A).

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.



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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KSH, NARA, Date 2/10/00

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2661

INFORMATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
SUBJECT: Status Report on Evacuation



Ambassador Dean Brown, your Special Representative and Director of the Special Interagency Task Force on Evacuation of Refugees from Indochina, has prepared a status report for you (Tab A).

Some of the figures cited in the report are out of date. As of the morning of April 26, there are 1,095 Americans left in Vietnam. Since April 1, approximately 4,100 Americans have been evacuated from South Vietnam and over 25,000 Vietnamese. There are now approximately 23,000 Vietnamese in temporary camps in Guam and several thousand in transit at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Some refugees are now being moved to Wake Island which has the capacity of holding between 2 and 6 thousand people.

The key points of Ambassador Brown's report are:

-- At present, we are evacuating by air and can move up to 7,000 persons a day from Saigon to Guam.

-- We obtained a positive response from the Congress for parole authority which went into effect on April 22 for 50,000 "high risk" persons and their dependents. A major problem which could arise is the depletion of this quota.

-- We designated Guam as a principal staging area and by April 24 over 9,000 Vietnamese were there.

-- Guam will serve only as a temporary site for the screening and processing of refugees, prior to their onward movement to the United States or third countries. The Government of Guam is readying facilities for an estimated 25,000 arrivals and planning for 25,000 more.

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--We have moved to internationalize the Indochina refugee problem. We have instructed our mission in Geneva to ask the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for their assistance. ICEM has responded favorably. We consider Vietnamese and Cambodians who have left their countries on their own as the responsibility of states receiving them and of international humanitarian organizations.

--For initial evacuation operations, we have been using a \$5 million fund available to the State Department. This amount is obviously insufficient to meet urgent requirements for transportation and immediate care of refugees at the staging areas.

--Our rough projections for overall funding requirements, based on a refugee population of 50-70,000, is for \$20-\$40 million for short-term transportation needs; \$90-\$130 million for transportation and administrative expenses. This package does not include further resettlement costs which will have to be addressed separately later.

--Our best estimate of what might be obtained from Congress is \$150-\$165 million. If we do not get this money, the operation could come to a halt in the not-too-distant future.

--We do not know how many Indochinese will have to be resettled; the numbers grow daily and could well exceed 135,000 for the United States alone.

--Adequate Federal funds will have to be available if refugees are not to become charges to local and state budgets. We have organized a special group within the Task Force which includes representatives of the principal concerned government agencies. I expect to propose to you shortly a citizens committee with Presidential sponsorship to assist in focusing public concern. A similar committee played a vital role in the settlement of Hungarian refugees.

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WASHINGTON

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[We are going to ~~try to obtain~~ request a full appropriation of the \$327 million authorized in the humanitarian assistance bill, with hopes of obtaining Senate and House action by the middle of next week.]

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